Nomination for training to foreign institutions

2396. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government nominate officers for training to foreign Institutions for improving their academic, managerial, administrative and technical skills at the cost of the public exchequer;

(b) if so, the number of officers from his Ministry sent abroad for both the short term and long term training courses abroad during the last five years, year-wise;

(c) the number of officers belonging to the SC/ST category among them; and

(d) the reasons, if adequate number of SC/ST officers has not been nominated for said training?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Department of Personnel and Training invites nominations every year from eligible officers for long term and short term training courses abroad. The Government bears expenditure towards Airport tax and expenditure involved in the training is borne by the respective Governments, where the training is held.

(b) During the last 5 years two officers were sent for long term training and two officers were sent for short term training from this Ministry.

(c) One of the two officers selected for the long term training course belonged to SC category.

(d) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting recommends all th eligible applicants to Department of Personnel and Training, who are the nodal agency for sponsoring the candidates. Only one

application of SC was received and he was sent abroad in the year 1997, for Long Term Training Course.

Telecast of Doordarshan Programmes in Dharni-Chirval-Dharna Area of Amravati

†2397. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints about poor quality of telecast of Doordarshan programmes in Dharni-Chirval-Dharna area of Amravati;

(b) if so, the details thereof, together with the action taken in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to set up Doordarshan and Akashavani Kendra in Amravati During the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Doordarshan programmes are available through satellite mode all over the country including Amravati district. Amravati district presently has 6 transmitters but none of these cover Dharni, Chirawal and Dharna portion of the district. There is presently no approved scheme to cover this part of the district terrestrially. Further expansion of Doordarshan coverage in the area is dependant on availability of resources and inter-se-priorities.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Whereas a local Radio Station with 10 KW FM Transmitter is proposed to be set up in Amravati during the Ninth Plan, a Low Power TV Transmitter at Daryapur in

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.